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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,682	01/10/2002	Timothy B. Cowles	500792.05	9115

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VAN THU T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2824

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DATE MAILED: 01/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/043,682

Applicant(s)

COWLES ET AL.

Examiner

VanThu Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Pre-amendment filed 1/10/02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 18, 30, 31, 39, 40, 44 and 45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 18, 30, 39, 44 and 45 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 31 and 40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2, 4, supp.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: Search Report.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Preliminary Amendment A has been filed and entered on January 10, 2002.
2. Claims 17-18, 30-31, 39-40, and 44-45 are pending.
3. Claims 1-16, 19-29, 32-38, 41-43, and 46-47 are cancelled.

Specification

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because: "In the full density mode" on line 4. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Suggested correction is --In the half density mode--.

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "the most significant column address bit CA9 is applied by the pass gate 266" on page 17, lines 13-14. Appropriate correction is required.

Suggested correction is --the most significant row address bit RA0 is applied by the pass gate 266--.

Claim Objections

6. Claim 44 is objected to because of the following informalities: "addressing a column of the the DRAM" on line 14. Appropriate correction is required, such as --addressing a column of the DRAM--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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8. Claims 31, 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 31, it is not clear what "an output of the first latch" on line 3, and "an output of the second latch" on line 5, are. Do applicant mean to say --the output of the remapping latch--, and --the output of the column address latch--, respectively?

Regarding claim 40, same 112 problem as above.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 17-18, 30, 39, 44-45 are allowed.

10. Claims 31, 40 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowance:

The prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed invention having:

a first latch coupled to receive a specific row address bit; a second latch coupled to receive a first set of column address bits and the specific column address bit; a selector operable to select either the specific row address bit output from the first latch or the specific column address bit output from the second latch, the selected address bit being combined with the column address bits in the first set; or

method of addressing a DRAM having a full density operation mode and a reduced density operation mode comprising determining the operating mode of the DRAM; storing a specific row address bit; storing a first set of column address bits and a specific column address

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bit; in the full density operating mode, selecting the first set of column address bits and the specific column address bit; in the reduced density operating mode, selecting the first set of column address bits and the specific row address bit; addressing a column of the DRAM using the selected address bits.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VanThu Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-9121.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (703) 308-2816. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

VTN
January 17, 2003

VanThu Nguyen
VAN THU NGUYEN
PATENT EXAMINER